

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ken Smith on 4/7/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-8, 11-14, 17-20 and 34-47 have been canceled.

The following claims have been added:

--Claim 48 (New)

A coupling assembly comprising:

a tube having an axis and an end portion;

a first flanged coupling member having a tube socket receiving the end portion of the tube;

a second flanged coupling member;

a ferrule disposed about the tube and axially between the first and second coupling members;

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a clamp having inner tapered surfaces which contact tapered surfaces of the first and second coupling member flanges respectively so as to generate axial force between the first and second coupling members to move said ferrule against said first coupling member, such that the ferrule plastically deforms the tube to grip and seal the tube.

Claim 49 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 48, wherein there is no threaded connection between said first and second flanged members.

Claim 50 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 48, wherein the ferrule is axially driven by the second flanged member against a camming surface of the first flanged member to grip and seal the tube, wherein said camming surface forms an angle of between 35 and 60 degrees with respect to the longitudinal axis of the tube.

Claim 51 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 48, wherein the ferrule bites into a surface of the tube.

Claim 52 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 48, further comprising a second ferrule disposed about the tube and axially between the first and second coupling members.

Claim 53 (New)

A coupling assembly comprising:

a tube having an axis and an end portion;

a first flanged coupling member having a tube socket receiving the end portion of the tube;

a second flanged coupling member having an integrally formed ferrule, the ferrule being disposed about the tube and axially between the first and second coupling members;

a clamp having inner tapered surfaces which contact tapered surfaces of the first and second coupling member flanges respectively so as to axially force the ferrule of the second coupling member against said first coupling member, such that the ferrule plastically deforms the tube to grip and seal the tube.

Claim 54 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 53, wherein the first and second flanged members are drawn together without relative rotation between said first and second flanged members.

Claim 55 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 53, wherein there is no threaded connection between said first and second flanged members.

Claim 56 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 53, wherein the ferrule is axially driven against a camming surface of the first flanged member to grip and seal the tube, wherein said camming surface forms an angle of between 35 and 60 degrees with respect to the longitudinal axis of the tube.

Claim 57 (New)

A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 53, wherein the ferrule bites into a surface of the tube.--

Drawings

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: the subject matter of claim 52. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. HEWITT whose telephone number is (571)272-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/James M Hewitt/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679